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Government  
Publication

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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# DIRECTORY OF SERVICES




Ontario

Ministry of  
Agriculture  
and Food

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Jack Riddell, Minister



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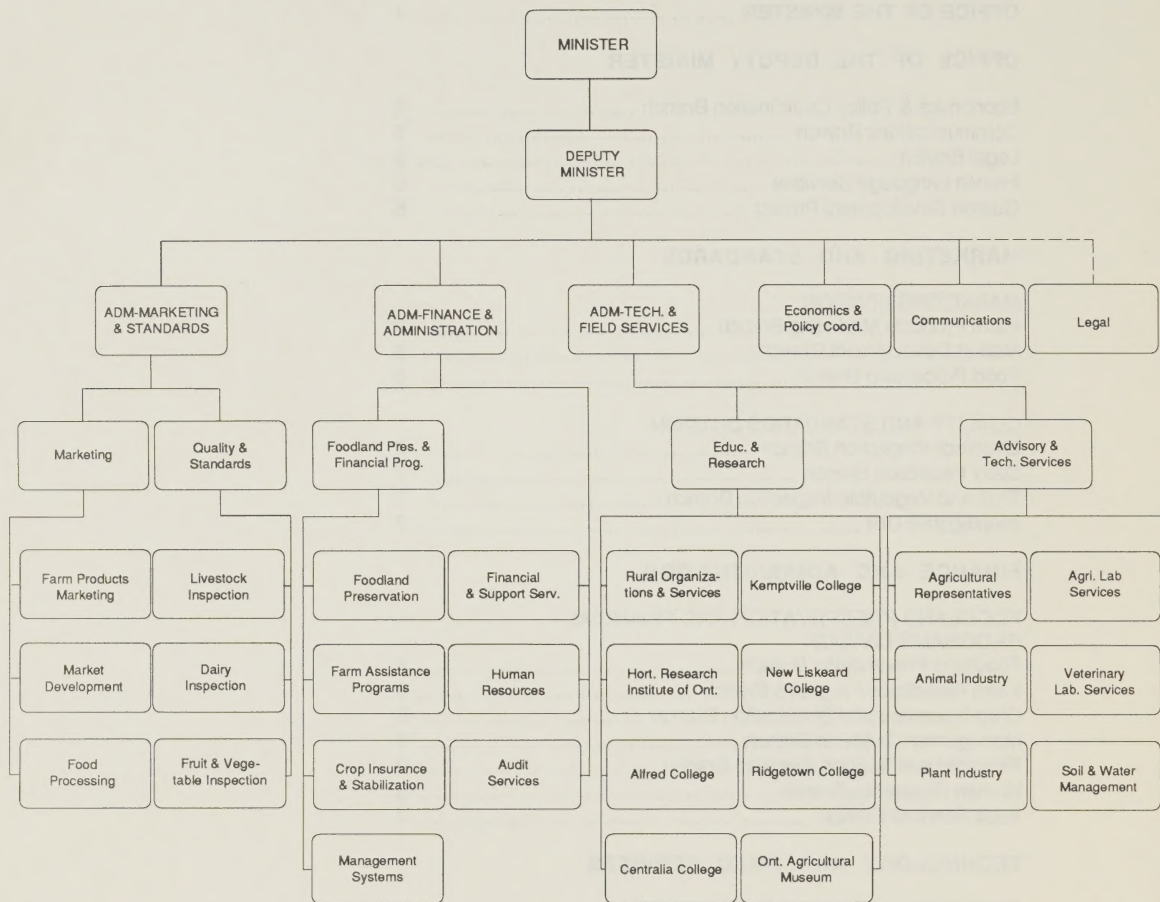
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# ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD ORGANIZATION CHART





## Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food: History and Mission

This ministry was one of the earliest to be established in the Ontario government in 1888 as the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The change to its present name occurred in 1972 to reflect more accurately its responsible role in the food production chain.

Today, the ministry's mission is to encourage the dynamic development of the entire agriculture and food sector by delivering services effectively and efficiently to those who grow, process and market our food.

To achieve this goal, the ministry is organized into these major areas:

### Office of the Minister

is responsible for providing direction in all ministry activities and for delivery of policies, programs and services. Minister of Agriculture and Food Jack Riddell (416) 326-3066. Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister, Gordon Miller (416) 326-3078.

### Office of the Deputy Minister

is responsible for the implementation of all ministry policies, programs and services. The deputy minister is also responsible for the administration of the ministry, comprising three major wings, three branches and two units. Deputy Minister Clay Switzer (416) 326-3101.

### Marketing and Standards

is responsible for the Marketing and Quality and Standards divisions, which together comprise six branches. Assistant Deputy Minister George Collin (416) 326-3110.

### Finance and Administration

is responsible for the Foodland Preservation and Financial Programs division, Financial and Support Services, Audit, and Human Resources Branches, totalling seven branches. Assistant Deputy Minister Elizabeth McLaren (416) 326-3097.

### Technology and Field Services

is responsible for the Education and Research and the Advisory and Technical Services divisions, containing seven branches and seven colleges and institutions. Assistant Deputy Minister Clare Rennie (416) 326-3092.

**Office of the Minister  
(416) 326-3068**

The minister, an elected member of the provincial parliament appointed to the Cabinet by the Premier, provides policy direction for all ministry activities. These include administration of regulations for the agri-food sector and the implementation of ministry programs and services.

The minister is assisted by a personal staff, consulting with ministry staff and clients of the ministry, to keep the minister informed of issues affecting the agri-food industry.

In addition, the minister is also responsible for the appointment of individuals to serve on boards and agencies under the jurisdiction of the ministry.

**Office of the Parliamentary Assistant**

(416) 326-7078

The parliamentary assistant is a member of the provincial parliament assigned to assist the minister with his duties as Minister of Agriculture and Food.

**Office of the Deputy Minister  
(416) 326-3101**

**Assistant Deputy Ministers:**

Marketing & Standards	(416) 326-3110
Finance & Administration	(416) 326-3097
Technology & Field Services	(416) 326-3092

**Branches:**

Economics & Policy Coordination Branch	(416) 326-3210
Communications Branch	(416) 326-3020
Legal Branch	(416) 326-3384
French Language Services	(416) 326-3370
Guelph Development Project	(416) 326-3362

**Services:**

The deputy minister's office oversees the ministry's mission: to encourage an efficient and competitive agriculture and food sector by organizing the ministry's functions for the most effective program operation. The following branches and units report directly to the deputy minister:

- **Economics & Policy Coordination Branch** develops, co-ordinates and analyses policy initiatives that affect the agri-food industry by assessing economic and social implications of domestic and foreign policy alternatives.

Guides the flow of legislation, regulations and orders-in-council between OMAF and central agencies of the government.

Surveys farmers for inventory, yield and price information and input costs. Provides information in the form of enterprise analysis, computer models, agricultural outlook reports, provincial agricultural statistics and daily commodity information.

- **Communications Branch** provides a comprehensive communications service to the ministry in promoting, enhancing and explaining policies and programs in both French and English to the media, industry and public. It also provides services to field offices and agricultural colleges.

Supplies a variety of print services from news releases to a monthly newspaper. Radio and television services offer news and consumer information. Audio-visual services include photographic services, a video production unit, library and equipment pool. Displays and exhibits attract diverse audiences at rural and urban events.

- **Legal Branch** counsels on legal matters that include interpretation of statutes and regulations, preparation and review of proposed legislation, regulations and other legal documents.

Supplies the ministry with general services such as preparing litigation, setting claims and acting at court hearings.

- **French Language Services** coordinates the ministry's planning and implementation activities in relation to the French Language Services Act.

Provides assistance and guidance to all levels of management within the ministry, liaises with the Office of Francophone Affairs, and keeps informed of the needs and concerns of the Franco-Ontarian community.

- **Guelph Development Project** co-ordinates design and construction of the new OMAF head office and laboratories in Guelph and arranges the transfer details of 550 staff for the move from Toronto in the early 1990s.



## Marketing & Standards

### MARKETING DIVISION

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#### Branches:

Farm Products Marketing Branch	(416) 585-4120
Market Development Branch	(416) 585-4130
Food Processing Branch	(416) 326-3060

#### Services:

This division builds on the current domestic and export commodity base and encourages maximum value-added to commodities through food processing. It helps to adjudicate marketing board disputes and represents Ontario's interests in regulated marketing, both provincially and nationally.

- **Farm Products Marketing Branch** provides administrative services to the Farm Products Marketing Commission of Ontario. The joint body supervises the activities of 25 marketing boards and participates in overall dairy policy planning and development.

Adjudicates in disputes between producer and processor.

- **Market Development Branch** increases consumer awareness of Ontario grown and processed foods, through Foodland Ontario, the major domestic advertising and promotion program.

Provides support through export and incoming sales missions for Ontario agricultural and food companies to expand current and develop new international markets.

- **Food Processing Branch** encourages expansion, modernization and diversification of Ontario's food processing and manufacturing industry in import replacement and export opportunities.

Plays a liaison role among industry, government, non-governmental agencies and producer organizations.

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### QUALITY & STANDARDS DIVISION

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#### Branches:

Livestock Inspection Branch	(416) 326-3554
Dairy Inspection Branch	(416) 326-3533
Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Branch	(416) 326-3565
Investigative Unit	(416) 326-3558



## Services:

This division ensures the wholesomeness of food products through regular OMAF inspections of farms and food processing plants and through laboratory analysis for bacteria, antibiotics and other substances. The division also maintains quality assurance through enforcement of grade standards, which are used as a basis of payment to producers for certain commodities. The protection of the financial interests of producers through standards and through financial protection programs is a key role of the division.

- **Livestock Inspection Branch** administers the Ontario Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program safeguarding producers from payment default in sales transactions with licensed livestock dealers. It protects producer interests by administering the Beef Cattle Marketing Act and regulations.

Provides inspection service of red meat and poultry and their carcasses at 285 licensed plants. The branch also administers The Dead Animal Disposal Program to prevent dead animal meat from entering the food chain and addresses environmental concerns.

Protects livestock health through veterinary inspection of all animals sold at licensed community sales that must comply with structural and sanitary requirements.

- **Dairy Inspection Branch** operates the Central Milk Testing Laboratory which tests fresh milk samples from every farm in the province for composition and quality.

Administers the Milk and Cream Quality Program aimed at improving raw milk and cream quality for processing through farm inspections and lab analysis of raw milk sold to processing plants.

Inspects dairy plants annually and issues licenses and certificates for processing plants, distributors and dairy workers throughout the province. Permits are also issued to build new or to alter old plants.

- **Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Branch** conducts more than 37,000 inspections of fresh fruit, vegetables, honey and maple products each year. There are also more than a dozen grading and testing programs designed to establish a basis for producer payment in the processing fruit, vegetable and tobacco sector.

Registers apiaries and inspects honey bee colonies to control disease.

Administers the Grain Financial Protection Program through licensing of grain dealers. It provides compensation to grain, corn and soybean producers if a licensed dealer defaults on payment or if there is a shortfall in grain corn or soybeans by a licensed storage operator.

- **Investigative Unit** provides an investigative support service to the division through enforcement of licensing provisions, investigations of claims filed under the various financial protection programs and consumer fraud under the quality and standards established for agricultural products.

Furnishes an investigative service to branches of the ministry in connection with attempts to defraud the ministry.

## Finance & Administration

### FOODLAND PRESERVATION & FINANCIAL PROGRAMS DIVISION

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#### Branches:

Foodland Preservation Branch	(416) 326-3131
Farm Assistance Programs Branch	(416) 326-3492
Crop Insurance & Stabilization Branch	(416) 326-3276
Management Systems Branch	(416) 326-3600
Financial and Support Services Branch	(416) 326-3153
Human Resources Branch	(416) 326-3715
Audit Services Branch	(416) 326-3776

#### Services:

This division combines efforts to preserve the province's land base with attempts to reduce the risk and income fluctuations inherent in agricultural production on that land base. This division is also responsible for automated management systems.

- **Foodland Preservation Branch** reviews planning documents and applications that may have an effect on Ontario's agricultural land resources. Implements the Food Land Guidelines -- the Ontario government's policy for preserving prime agricultural land and for ensuring that agricultural activities can occur relatively free from disruption from other land uses.

Maintains a registry and monitors the extent of all non-resident interests in agricultural land.

- **Farm Assistance Programs Branch** researches, develops and administers programs to assist farmers with across-the-board financing, in the form of loans, guarantees, interest rebates, property tax rebates and compensation to livestock producers. There are currently 34 assistance programs.

Researches and develops provincial policy regarding agricultural credit.

- **Crop Insurance & Stabilization Branch** makes available to farmers, under the direction of the Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario, insurance plans against natural hazards for nearly 50 crops on two million acres. The federal government pays half of the insureds' premiums.

Provides farm income stabilization plans, under Farm Income Stabilization Commission of Ontario direction, for barley, corn, soybeans, winter wheat, oats, canola and potatoes. The Ontario government covers two-thirds and the producers one-third of all stabilization payouts.

Administers Ontario's share of the National Tripartite Price Stabilization program for red meat producers, white beans, colored beans and apples.

- **Management Systems Branch** provides services and administers policies related to electronic data processing, information technology and office automation for the ministry.
- **Financial and Support Services Branch** offers financial and management support at the corporate level, coordinates purchasing activities, office accommodation and space management services, development of telecommunications, library and freedom-of-information services.

Processes employee payroll and expenses, accounts payable, subsidies and revenue units. The branch also operates mail, printing and warehousing services.

- **Human Resources Branch** provides a comprehensive system of personnel administration to management and employees of OMAF including: staffing, position analysis, classification and compensation, organizational review and design, employee relations, benefits, employee career counselling, staff development and training.

Coordinates occupational health and safety, employment equity and human resources planning programs.

- **Audit Services Branch** provides the deputy minister and all members of management with objective analyses, appraisals and pertinent recommendations on all activities reviewed to improve the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of OMAF's operations.



## Technology & Field Services

### EDUCATION & RESEARCH DIVISION

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#### Branches:

Colleges of Agricultural Technology	(see below)
Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario (HRIO)	(416) 562-4141
Rural Organizations & Services Branch	(519) 767-3523
Ontario Agricultural Museum	(416) 878-8151

#### Services:

This division includes the five colleges of agricultural technology and contracts with the University of Guelph for three education programs. It funds research projects at the colleges, the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario and the University of Guelph. Several special research programs, such as the Land Stewardship research program, are directly administered by this division.

The division also supports a variety of rural organizations, such as 4-H Clubs, and operates the Ontario Agricultural Museum to enhance rural life and increase awareness among urban people.

- **Colleges of Agricultural Technology** offer two-year diploma programs in agricultural production and management, laboratory and animal health technology, agribusiness and commerce and food service supervision. Programs are also offered at the University of Guelph and they include: diplomas in agriculture, independent study diplomas in agriculture and horticulture; further support is given to the veterinary teaching hospital and veterinary students externship programs.

Provide training for dairy manufacturers, farm equipment mechanics, agricultural fitter-welders, dairy herdworkers, and farriers. In addition, each college offers continuing education courses and conducts research in major areas of agriculture and food technology.

Alfred College (French) (4) Box 580 Alfred, K0B 1A0 (613) 679-2218	Centralia College Huron Park N0M 1Y0 (519) 228-6691
Kemptville College Kemptville, K0G 1J0 (613) 258-3411	New Liskeard College New Liskeard, P0J 1P0 (705) 647-6738
Ridgetown College Ridgetown, N0P 2C0 (519) 674-5456	

- **Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario (HRIO)** co-ordinates and conducts horticultural crop research at three locations for OMAF to increase production and develop new varieties of farm products, mainly in fruit and vegetables. The institute serves farmers, ornamental plant growers, food processors and wine makers and provides propagating material to growers and nurseries.

Conducts research on post-harvest storage and physiology, food processing technology, and oenology (wine science) through its Horticultural Products Laboratory. This laboratory also provides technical information to food-processing and wine-making industries.

Hort. Experiment Station & Hort. Products Laboratory  
Vineland Station, L0R 2E0  
(416) 562-4141

Hort. Experiment Station	Muck Research Station
Simcoe, N3Y 4N5	Kettleby, L0G 1J0
(519) 426-7120	(416) 775-3783

- **Rural Organizations & Services Branch** provides resources and support services for rural organizations.

Conducts educational programs for adults and youth such as leadership, family management, food, nutrition and agricultural awareness.

Offers farm employment training, international agricultural exchanges and summer employment opportunities.

- **Ontario Agricultural Museum** contains 35 buildings housing 20,000 artifacts, tools and machines and a library reflecting the history and evolution of Ontario agriculture.

Attracts thousands of visitors from mid-May to mid-September, including a growing number of students and teachers who take part in guided tours, workshops and professional development programs.

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## ADVISORY & TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

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### Branches:

Agricultural Representatives Branch	(519) 767-3148
Animal Industry Branch	(519) 767-3132
Plant Industry Branch	(519) 767-3173
Agricultural Laboratory Services Branch	(519) 823-8800
Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch	(519) 767-3117
Soil and Water Management Branch	(519) 767-3561
Consumer Information Centre	(416) 326-3400

## Services:

The division offers financial and farm business management information to farmers, producer organizations and agricultural supply industries. It encourages farmers particularly to identify needs and opportunities for growth, adopt new technologies and make sound business decisions.

This division also provides up-to-date laboratory testing programs and animal diagnostic services for farmers, the industry and veterinarians.

- **Agricultural Representatives Branch** co-ordinates the activities of the "ag reps" and staff in 54 county and district offices. Field staff help provide educational programs -- especially in financial management -- advisory services and government assistance to help farmers better manage their operations. (Field offices contact list, pgs 14 & 15).

Administers field delivery of special assistance programs, such as AgriNorth, The Red Meat Plan, Farmers Helpline and The Ontario Family Farm Interest Rate Reduction Plus program.

- **Animal Industry Branch** provides livestock and veterinary advice to farmers and veterinarians on management, health and diseases of cattle, sheep and swine. Field staff also promote high quality livestock production through improvement programs, including Record of Performance, the Ontario Pork Industry Improvement Plan and the Red Meat Plan. In addition, financial support is maintained for veterinary services in Ontario's remote areas.

Administers the Animals for Research Act, Artificial Insemination Act, Livestock Medicines Act, Riding Horse Establishment Act and others involving the inspection of animal facilities and premises and conducts workshops and consultations for producers and the industry in the proper care and feeding of livestock.

- **Plant Industry Branch** provides information at county and district offices on commercial production of field and horticultural crops, on the safety and more effective use of pesticides and the Integrated Pest Management Program.

Administers the Weed Control Act through municipally appointed inspectors, produces soil maps for land use decisions and searches for alternative methods of fuel production and conservation.

- **Agricultural Laboratory Services Branch** administers soil, plant tissue and feed analysis services.

Comprises the following laboratories: The Provincial Pesticide Residue Testing Laboratory provides chemical analysis and interpretation to Ontario government ministries on pesticide residues, industrial pollutants, and heavy metals in food, plants, animals, and the environment; the Pest Diagnostic and Advisory Clinic provides a service to growers in the identification of insects, weeds, and plant diseases.

Pesticide Residue Laboratory  
Bldg. 43, McGilvray Street  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1  
(519) 823-8800, Ext. 4825

Pest Diagnostic Clinic  
Graham Hall  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario N1G2W1  
(519) 824-4120, Ext. 2700



- **Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch** operates six labs to assist the livestock industry and veterinarians through diagnostic, investigative, consultative and extension services. Animal and poultry carcasses and specimens are submitted by veterinarians to test for causes of various diseases.

Administers the Ontario Hatchery Supply Flock Policy to control poultry disease and the Fur Farms Act to license fur farmers.

Brighton Lab (613) Dundas St. Brighton K0K 1H0 (613) 475-1632	Kemptville Lab Kemptville K0G 1J0 (613) 258-8321
Guelph Lab Box 3612 Guelph N1H 6R8 (519) 823-8800	New Liskeard Lab Box 790 New Liskeard P0J 1P0 (705) 647-6701
Huron Park Lab Nova Scotia Ave Huron Park NOM IYO (519) 227-4451 (519) 228-6691	Ridgetown Lab 100 Main St. East Ridgetown NOP 2C0 (519) 674-5456

**Soil and Water Management Branch** provides administration of drainage, water and soil management programs, oversees soil conservation and water quality initiatives and staff and takes responsibility for the maintenance of an inventory of program information.

Represents OMAF at the Institute of Pedology through the soil survey unit which surveys, interprets and writes reports on soil and land management data.

**Consumer Information Centre** responds to questions on agriculture, horticulture, food and nutrition from a storefront centre at 801 Bay Street. Staff answer public enquiries by phone, by mail and in person each weekday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The centre is also a distribution point for ministry publications.

<b>OMAF Field Offices</b>
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County, District or Region	Town	Telephone Number
Algoma District	Sault Ste. Marie	(705) 253-1161 or 1-800-461-2234
Brant County	Brantford	(519) 759-4190
Bruce County	Walkerton	(519) 881-3301 or 1-800-265-3023 (Fax) 881-2739
Carleton Region	Nepean	(613) 828-9167
Cochrane North District	Kapuskasing	(705) 335-5828 or Zenith 43340
Cochrane South District	Matheson	(705) 273-2509
Dufferin County	Orangeville	(519) 941-3830 or (Fax) 941-5689
Dundas County	Winchester	(613) 774-2313 or 1-800-267-7603 (Fax) 774-3283
Durham East Region	Bowmanville	(416) 623-3348 or 1-800-263-8023 (Fax) 623-4849
Durham West Region	Uxbridge	(416) 852-3328 or 1-800-263-3251 (Fax) 852-5367
Elgin County	St. Thomas	(519) 631-4700 or 1-800-265-4377
Essex County	Essex	(519) 776-7361 or 1-800-265-5836
Frontenac County	Kingston	(613) 545-4360 or Fax 548-6608
Glengarry County	Alexandria	(613) 525-1046 or 1-800-267-1722
Grenville County	Kemptville	(613) 258-8295 or 1-800-267-7953 (Fax) 258-8384
Grey County	Markdale	(519) 986-2040
Haldimand Region	Cayuga	(416) 772-3381
Halton Region	Milton	(416) 878-2314 or Fax 876-4055 Brampton line (416) 453-9766
Hamilton-Wentworth Region	Ancaster	(416) 527-2995 or 1-800-263-8520 (Fax) 648-6817
Hastings County	Stirling	(613) 395-3393 or 1-800-267-2842
Huron County	Clinton	(519) 482-3428 or 1-800-265-5170
Kenora District	Dryden	(807) 223-2415 or 1-800-465-7213
Kent County	Chatham	(519) 354-2150 or Zenith 33440
Lambton County	Petrolia	(519) 882-0180 or 1-800-265-1441
Lanark County	Perth	(613) 267-1063 or Zenith 33440
Leeds County	Brockville	(613) 342-2124 or Zenith 46320
Lennox & Addington County	Napanee	(613) 354-3371

Manitoulin District	Gore Bay	(705) 282-2043 or 1-800-265-4750 (Fax) (519) 351-9669
Middlesex County	London	(519) 434-6811 or 1-800-265-4750
Muskoka-Parry Sound District	Huntsville	(705) 789-8886 or 1-800-461-9676
Niagara North Region	Vineland Station	(416) 562-4147 or 1-800-263-2481
Niagara South Region	Fonthill	(416) 892-4741 or 1-800-263-1031
Nipissing District	North Bay	(705) 474-3050 or 1-800-461-6132 (Fax) 472-0882
Norfolk Region	Simcoe	(519) 426-7120 or Zenith 38300 (Fax) 728-1142
Northumberland County	Brighton	(613) 475-1630 or Zenith 34920 (Fax) 475-3835
Oxford County	Woodstock	(519) 537-6621 or 1-800-265-7896 (Fax) 539-5351
Peel Region	Brampton	(416) 451-5474 or Zenith 43350
Perth County	Stratford	(519) 271-0280 or 1-800-265-8502 (Fax) 273-5278
Peterborough County	Peterborough	(705) 745-2403 or Zenith 16310 (Fax) 745-6657
Prescott County	Plantagenet	(613) 673-5115 or Zenith 48110 (Fax) 673-5578
Prince Edward County	Picton	(613) 476-3224 (Fax) 476-3370
Rainy River District	Emo	(807) 482-2310 or 1-800-465-2917
Renfrew County	Renfrew	(613) 432-4841 or 1-800-267-8816
Russell County	Embrun	(613) 443-3391 or 1-800-267-7606
Simcoe North County	Elmvale	(705) 322-2231 or 1-800-461-9626
Simcoe South County	Alliston	(705) 435-5521, (705) 458-9803, Zenith 43340 or Fax 435-5428
Stormont County	Avonmore	(613) 346-2143 or 1-800-267-1726
Sudbury District	Sudbury	(705) 566-1630 or 1-800-461-7176 (Fax) 566-8166
Thunder Bay District	Thunder Bay	(807) 475-1631 or 1-800-465-5026
Timiskaming District	New Liskeard	(705) 647-6701 or 1-800-461-8750
Victoria & Haliburton Counties	Lindsay	(705) 324-6125 or 1-800-461-0329 (Fax) 324-1638
Waterloo Region	Waterloo	(519) 884-5390
Wellington County	Fergus	(519) 846-0941 or (519) 843-2231 or 1-800-265-8332
York Region	Newmarket	(416) 895-4519 or Zenith 33440 or 1-800-263-3241







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